



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FY-03-116

PSC SETS HEARING SCHEDULE IN SOUTHERN UNION CASE TO ACQUIRE PANHANDLE EASTERN PIPELINE COMPANY

Jefferson City (February 26, 2003)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold hearings **March 26-28, 31 and April 1, 2003**, in a case filed by Southern Union Company. Southern Union Company seeks Commission authority to purchase the equity interest of Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company, including various subsidiaries involved in natural gas transportation and storage services in the Midwest. Missouri Gas Energy, which provides natural gas service to approximately 500,000 customers in western Missouri, is a division of Southern Union Company.

Hearings, scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on March 26, 2003, will be held in the offices of the Missouri Public Service Commission located in the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. This building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. Any person needing additional accommodations to participate in these hearings may call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) before the hearings.

Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company, an interstate natural gas pipeline providing natural gas to various entities, is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Panhandle's system in Missouri spans from Cass County in the west to Pike County in the northeast part of the State. Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company is the third largest provider of natural gas in Missouri serving AmerenUE, Atmos Energy, Fidelity Natural Gas, Laclede Gas Company, Missouri Gas Energy and Aquila. It also provides natural gas to a number of unregulated municipal systems in Missouri.

According to the application filed by Southern Union Company, the proposed purchase will have no adverse affect on the customers of Missouri Gas Energy with respect to rates, service or otherwise and, consequently, is not detrimental to the public interest. The application also states that Southern Union's Missouri customers will see no change in their day-to-day utility service or rates, and said customers will continue to be served effectively and efficiently without interruption.

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